

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A block for constructing a retaining wall, the block comprising:
 - a substantially contiguous top surface;
 - a bottom surface spaced a predetermined distance from said top surface;
 - a front surface extending vertically between said top and bottom surfaces and horizontally in a predetermined lateral extent;
 - a rear surface spaced a predetermined distance from said front surface, the rear surface extending vertically between said top and bottom surfaces and horizontally in a predetermined lateral extent; and,
 - side surfaces spaced apart from each other, with each side surface extending vertically between said top and bottom surfaces and horizontally between said front and rear surfaces, ~~and with each side surface comprising at least three plurality of facets[[:]]~~ wherein including a first facet extending from the front surface, a second facet extending from the rear surface, and a third facet extending from the second facet, the second and third facets defining a notch in the side surface

adjacent the rear surface, the notch extending from the top surface to the bottom surface ~~the facets of the side surfaces that are closest to said rear surface of said block are in substantially parallel planes.~~

2. (Original) The block of claim 1, wherein the lateral extent of said front surface is greater than the lateral extent of said rear surface.

3. (Original) The block of claim 1, wherein said bottom surface further comprises a projection extending downwardly therefrom, the projection having an abutting surface configured and arranged to contact the rear surface of a lower course of blocks when said block is placed thereon, the abutting surface operating to position said block in a predetermined relation relative to the lower course of blocks on which it is placed.

4. (Original) The block of claim 3, wherein said abutting surface extends substantially between said side surfaces.

5-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The block of claim 1, wherein the second facets of the side surfaces ~~closest to said rear surface of said block~~ are substantially parallel to each other and substantially perpendicular to the rear surface of said block.

10. (Currently Amended) The block of claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the~~ third facet[[s]] of at least one of the side surfaces is substantially parallel to the rear surface.

11. (Currently Amended) The block of claim 1, wherein [[one]] the third facet of one of the side surfaces is substantially co-planar with [[one]] the third facet of the other side surface.

12. (Currently Amended) The block of claim 1, wherein the third facet[[s]] of at least one of the side surfaces forms a shoulder ~~defining an inwardly inset sidewall~~.

13. (Original) The block of claim 1, wherein the front surface is free from vertices that extend substantially from the top surface to the bottom surface.

14. (Original) The block of claim 1, wherein the front surface is substantially curvilinear.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (New) A block for constructing a retaining wall, the block comprising:

a substantially contiguous top surface;

a bottom surface spaced a predetermined distance from said top surface;

a front surface extending vertically between said top and bottom surfaces and horizontally in a predetermined lateral extent;

a rear surface spaced a predetermined distance from said front surface, the rear surface extending vertically between said top and bottom surfaces and horizontally in a predetermined lateral extent; and,

a pair of side surfaces spaced apart from each other, with each side surface extending vertically between said top and bottom surfaces and horizontally between said front and rear surfaces, each side surface having an inset portion extending between the top and bottom surfaces adjacent the rear surface, the side surface in the inset portion intersecting the rear surface at substantially a right angle.